



Guardian East



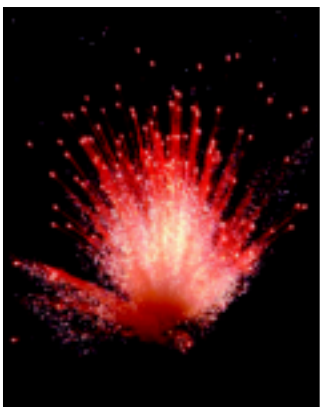
Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

At a glance



Renewed Vows **7**

Chaplain workshop assists couples during deployment



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Soldiers celebrate with fireworks and games



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Performers entertain troops



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MWR's spirit of competition



Photo by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, based in Vicenza, Italy, jump from a C-130 Hercules over Kosovo Thursday. U.S. soldiers and airmen from Italy and Germany deployed for Rapid Guardian 02-3, a routine training opportunity that rehearses the rapid deployment of the U.S. component to the NATO strategic reserve force to the Balkans.

Rapid Guardian descends on Kosovo

By Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb
Staff writer

CAMP MONTEITH — An airborne operation Thursday in the KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) area of responsibility marked the beginning of Rapid Guardian 02-3 — an operational rehearsal of the U.S. European Command's capability to quickly deploy forces into the region.

An airborne task force of 173 soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade conducted a drop into an area west of Vitina consisting mostly of cornfields.

The 173rd is part of the Southern European Task Force, based in Vicenza, Italy.

Rapid Guardian provides an opportunity to practice the U.S. European Command's capabilities to quickly deploy forces into the region in order to maintain a secure environment in the Balkans.

"Nobody is perfect, and you can always im-

prove procedures and training," said Lt. Gen. Marcel M. Valentin, KFOR commander.

Valentin and MNB(E) commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute viewed the airborne operation from the edge of the drop zone.

Col. Bill Mayville, commander of the 173rd, was the first paratrooper out of the aircraft on Thursday. It was his first jump as brigade commander.

"Our arrival demonstrates the U.S. and NATO commitment in maintaining peace in the region, the capability of our soldiers to rapidly reinforce NATO forces if needed," Mayville said.

"We will proceed to work closely with our partners now and continue to train in

More Rapid Guardian photos
page 8

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U.S. soldiers and TMK members improve roads in Strpce area

By Spc. Jasmine Chopra
Staff writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL—Soldiers in Company A, 94th Engineer Battalion, attached to Task Force 9th Engineer recently teamed up with members of the 30th Engineer Group of TMK (the Albanian-language abbreviation for Kosovo Protection Corps) to construct a culvert and road bypass in the Strpce area.

These improvements are part of the Route Lion

project, the KFOR-sponsored road construction effort aimed at repairing and improving the main supply route connecting Multi-National Brigade (East) with MNB (S).

Parts of the road are collapsing because of erosion. Only one lane, not suitable for large vehicles such as buses, is serviceable. The bypass will divert traffic from the main road while construction is under way to expand and improve sections

See **ROUTE LION** page 13



Photo by
Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Avdush Shabani, left, of the 30th Engineer Group, Headquarters Kosovo Protection Corps, and Pvt. Chris Gambell, a heavy equipment operator in Company A, 94th Engineer Battalion, work together on a culvert near Strpce. The culvert is part of a KFOR-funded road construction project.

Female leaders from MNB(E) advise women in Parliament

By Spc. Jasmine Chopra and
Capt. Dave Domingo
Staff writers

Five officers and a senior NCO from KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) provided leadership and insight as female members of Kosovo's Parliament discussed ways to strengthen their role in the province during a conference June 27 and 28 in Pristina.

Women Parliamentarians: Crossing the Lines in Kosovo, sponsored by the international nonprofit group Women Waging Peace, sought to create an official coalition of the 34 female members of Kosovo's 120-member Parliament, said Capt. Rebecca Bradwisch, commander of Company C, 106th Finance Battalion.

"The group was composed of Albanians and Serbs, who had seen the horrors of war firsthand and had grown to hate each other," she said. "That was the true challenge: bringing together ladies who hated each other because their husbands had killed each other or their sons."

Bradwisch attended the conference with Maj. Gillian Boice, executive officer for Task Force 709th Military Police; Capt. Nicole Lucas, commander of Company B, 299th Forward Support Battalion; 2nd Lt. Yesenia Garcia, a platoon leader in the 630th Military Police Company;

See **LAWMAKERS** Page 10

MNB(E) Commander's Message

Commander calls for patience to sustain the peace

Our mission in Kosovo is a marathon, not a sprint. More accurately, KFOR's mission is like a series of marathons, a marathon relay with periodic hand-offs of the baton.

Every six months or so, one KFOR team hands off the mission to another and the marathon continues as Kosovo makes its way further away from the start line – the inter-ethnic conflict of three years ago – and toward the future.

So today, three years after NATO entered Kosovo, we in MNB(E) must pace ourselves for the entire mission period and keep in mind where we fit in the longer term effort, the multi-year NATO mission to bring a self-sustaining peace to this war-torn area.

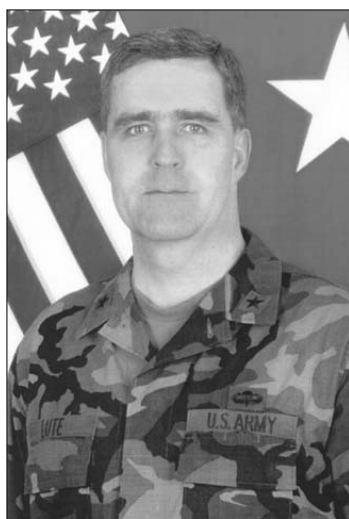
Patience is a virtue in Kosovo. This is true at multiple levels: for each of us as

individuals, in small unit tactical missions, in civil-military operations across the brigade area, and for Kosovo's strategic future.

At the personal level, we each need to pace ourselves for the entire mission period. Whether our tour is four, six or twelve months, we should set attainable goals and move towards these goals at a steady, sustainable pace.

I expect first-line supervisors to get involved with each soldier to set goals for our KFOR tour. Sample goals might be to improve your score on the APFT by 30 points, to lose 10 pounds, to qualify expert with your weapon, to read a book each month, to earn 6 college credits, to win the EIB or EFMB, or to quit smoking.

None of these are goals that can be attained overnight. They all require personal discipline and patience, and



Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute

coaching and encouragement by leaders. Six months is a long time and each individual can achieve a lot if he or she sets a steady, sustainable pace – like in a marathon.

In small unit tactical situations, too, patience pays off in Kosovo. In war-fighting

situations, victory at the tactical level often goes to the quickest, the first to engage, and the first to get inside the enemy's decision cycle.

The situation in a peacekeeping environment is usually different, however, and calls for taking our time before executing. The best way to put this is we must avoid "rushing to failure." Most tactical operations here call for close coordination with multiple other parties, including local leaders, our UNMIK partners, civilian police, etc.

Of course there are exceptions. When faced with a meeting engagement with armed extremists along the border, there is little time for the on-scene leader to show patience as he applies the rules of engagement (ROE). Our ROE allows for quick response in these situations and that is exactly what I expect of junior leaders.

More common, however,

are situations where it is a good idea to ensure we have a good read and solid coordination before acting.

Patience certainly is a key to civil-military operations across our sector. We occasionally need to remind ourselves that it has been only three years since the end of the war here.

Many soldiers in this brigade were here in 1999 and can appreciate how far Kosovo has come since those violent days. The people of Kosovo need time to build tolerance between ethnic groups that were killing one another just three years ago.

Ongoing projects like improving freedom of movement, returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and setting up law and order structures will take years, not

See **COMMANDER** page 7

MNB(E) Command Sergeant Major's Message

Discipline: a continuous commitment to excellence



Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Beam

Dozens of soldiers endured hours of sweltering heat Thursday in support of the airborne operation that marked the start of Rapid Guardian.

Because they were outside the wire, the soldiers had to remain in their Kevlar helmets and flak vest despite high temperatures.

The soldiers drank plenty of water to stay well hydrated and completed their mission.

Those committed soldiers did the right thing even in extreme heat, and soldiers from inside and outside MNB(E) are continuing to operate in the proper uniform as they conduct Rapid Guardian and other current missions.

Knowing that, I am even more disappointed when my commander informs me that my sol-

diers have been seen outside the wire in soft caps – and in some cases, no headgear at all.

To me the issue of Kevlars versus soft caps is directly related to discipline. It is a matter of following rules set by the command. As professional soldiers we must maintain discipline and commitment to the values we live by.

The peacekeeping mission in Kosovo is both complex and rewarding. This mission requires that soldiers remain disciplined even during the most routine events, such as patrolling, pulling guard and interacting with the people of Kosovo.

Disciplined soldiers remain focused on the mission and the rules set forth by the commander, even when they are

outside the wire and think no one is watching them.

Goodwill and outreach programs have become a meaningful and rewarding part of our commitment to the people of Kosovo. These activities bring much-needed resources to the local nationals and give soldiers an opportunity to demonstrate cooperation.

Those outreach events seem to be where soldiers have the most trouble staying in uniform. I demand that everyone remain in uniform and maintain their professionalism during those activities.

The people of Kosovo have seen many soldiers over the years. They know how a professional soldier dresses and acts. They respect a professional who not only

spreads goodwill but also is committed to making Kosovo a safe and secure place.

It would have been easy for the soldiers supporting the Rapid Guardian exercise to complain of the heat and shrug off their responsibilities when no one was looking.

However, they remained professional. Everyone made it back to camp safely, and the mission was a success. If these soldiers can remain professional under unpleasant circumstances, so can you.

Remain disciplined, follow the rules set by the command and maintain high standards, and our mission of Kosovo will be a success.

About Guardian East

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battle 'rattle'

What do you like best about Kosovo?



"I like seeing the Albanian and Serb medical facilities become self-reliant. I like that Serbs and Albanians are going to the same medical facilities."

Pfc. Dan Ledding, 20
91W, medical specialist
Task Force Medical Falcon
Camp Bondsteel

"The beautiful landscape."

Staff Sgt. Gene Person, 38
63B, motor sergeant
TFMF
Camp Bondsteel



"The children's smiling faces when they see you."

Capt. Christine M. Watson, 32
67F, ophthalmologist
Company E, 701st Main Support Battalion/TFMF
Camp Bondsteel



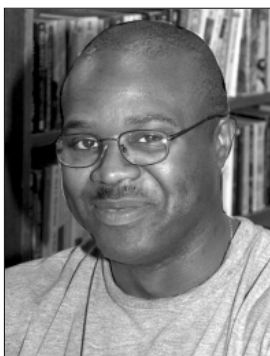
"I love each day that passes here because it gets me closer to block leave."

Spc. Tyshawyn Alexander
13B, cannon crewmember
Service Battery, 1-7 Field Artillery Bn.
Camp Bondsteel



"Getting to meet people from all different countries, visiting the sick in hospitals and singing at the chapel four nights a week."

Staff Sgt. Eugene W. Johnson Jr., 40
63B, light-wheel vehicle mechanic
Company A, 121st Signal Bn.
Camp Bondsteel



"Driving through the towns."

Spc. Timothy Waters, 29
91W, health care specialist
TFMF
Camp Bondsteel



From the newsroom

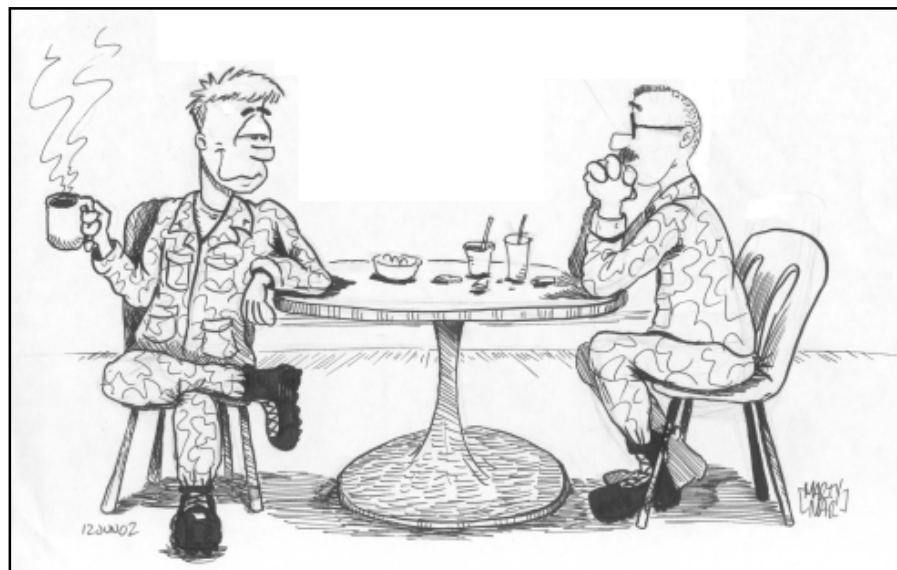


Illustration by Spc. Eric C. Martin

Simple pleasures include enjoying a good 'brew'

By Capt. Dave Domingo
Staff writer

Soldiers in a modern deployment might expect a base camp to have well-equipped gyms, good chow, a PX, a barbershop and sewing and laundry services.

But cappuccino?

When I first saw the umbrellas and the little café tables at the cappuccino bar on Camp Bondsteel, I laughed. How un-military!

Cheapskate that I am, I also wondered why anyone would pay \$2.50 for a cup of coffee when they could get one for free in the dining facility.

I quickly figured out that it's not about the coffee. It's about winding down in the company of nice people, and the proprietors of our cappuccino bar have created a pretty good place for doing that. In the General Order No. 1 environment, the cappuccino bar, not Cheers, is where everybody knows your name.

Time management challenges prevent me from visiting the cappuccino bar as often as I'd like, but when I do go there, I generally find groups of my colleagues playing cards at the larger tables. Sometimes I see pairs of people playing chess. However, most patrons are content to sit, sip their beverages and watch the action on the volleyball courts or on the stage outside the Southtown Gym.

A couple of weeks ago, I took a binder full of Guardian East page proofs to the cappuccino bar. I was sure I'd enjoy the work a lot more if I did it while sitting at one of the little tables and listening to salsa music. I was right. It took me about 40 minutes to mark up the pages, and I spent another hour and a half watching soldiers on the stage patiently teach other soldiers how to salsa dance.

On a recent night, I felt the need to counsel a soldier informally on the next step in his development. We discussed it over a cappuccino – my idea. I think my soldier would agree that it felt less confrontational and more constructive in that environment.

Troops who live and work in other camps seem to gravitate to the cappuccino bar whenever they come to Bondsteel or Monteith. I've personally sipped macchiatos with U.S. soldiers who work in our multi-national partner battalions and at Camp Rock. A couple of those remote camp residents participate in Sunday night karaoke religiously.

When my print journalists need help identifying people in photos, they take printouts of the photos to the cappuccino bar and ask patrons if they know who the people are. It has never taken more than half an hour of legwork to ID someone using that technique. That tells me that a variety of units and camps are represented there on a typical night.

The cappuccino bar experience would not be nearly so pleasant if the employees didn't work so hard to make patrons feel comfortable. They flash genuine smiles while taking and filling orders. They patrol the tables often to take used cups and gather new orders. As groups of patrons leave, employees move in quickly and get the tables and chairs back in perfect order. (The pace of their work must keep them in good shape: The cappuccino bar employees were the volleyball champions in the July 4 sports tournament.)

You might not think that having a place to sit and drink coffee would make a deployment that much more bearable, but for many soldiers here, it really does.

Here's to the simple pleasures. Cheers!

Domingo is executive officer of the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: James Myers.

Age: 25.

Rank: Staff Sergeant.

MOS: 75H promotions clerk.

Unit: 510th Postal Service Battalion.

Stationed at: Camp Monteith.

Your role in MNB: Personnel services NCOIC.

What city do you call home? Clio, W. Va.

What are you good at? Basketball.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Playstation.

Your favorite food: Pizza.

Your favorite TV show: "Seinfeld."

Why did you join the Army? Fun, travel and adventure.

What do you like most about Kosovo? Great learning experience.



Around KFOR

July 2: Four youths were caught inside the boundary of the former Norwegian company camp in Glogovac. The youths were scolded by a guard before being released. In a separate incident, three local men were found inside the same camp. It is believed that they were trying to steal equipment. A soldier from **Multi-National Brigade (Center)** fired a warning shot, and an illumination flare was used to see the men's escape route as they fled. The camp was thoroughly searched for further intruders; none were found.

July 2: KFOR's **Force Support Unit** reported that unidentified individuals threw stones at the windows of a train that was leaving Kacanik railway station en route to Kosovo Polje. Three of the windows were broken. In a separate incident, stones were thrown at a train traveling north from Kosovo Polje. This time no damage was reported.

July 2: During a cordon-and-search operation in Zvecan, soldiers of **Multi-National Brigade (North)** found a machine gun, 36 rifles, 12 pistols, three rifle grenade launchers, four hand grenades, 50 ammunition magazines, three antitank rocket launchers, an antitank rocket, three gas masks, two shells, 2 kg of explosives, seven bayonets, 380 rounds of ammunition and various military-style uniforms.

July 3: KPS in Podjeve requested assistance from **MNB(C)**. A car had been stopped for speeding; as the ticket was being issued, the driver attempted to drive off. The car was stopped and the driver assaulted a KPS officer. Two of the passengers, including the driver, were arrested. Three others escaped.

July 3: A rifle grenade was found in an open field near Smodraca. An EOD team from **Multi-National Brigade (South)** was dispatched to the scene and disposed of the item.

July 4: Two men attempted to illegally cross the border from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia into Kosovo near the city of Kosovo i Metohia. Both men were detained by **MNB(S)** soldiers until UNMIK-Police arrived to take control of the incident.

July 4: An **MNB(N)** patrol in Mitrovica found 54 rifle rounds in an abandoned house. The patrol had been led to the house by a child who had approached the KFOR soldiers twice with 15 rounds of ammunition.



Photo by Pfc. Kate McIsaac

Six AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters land in formation at Camp Bondsteel July 5 in preparation for Rapid Guardian.



Photo by Tony Velkov

Lt. Col. Rick Russell, outgoing commander, hands the colors to Lt. Col. Philip L. Marlowe, incoming commander, both of base support battalion at Camp Able Sentry July 6.

July 4: A patrol from **Multi-National Brigade (West)** stopped a truck carrying wood near Zakovo. The driver had no identification card and no vehicle documents. UNMIK-Police took over the case and confirmed that the wood had been cut illegally.

July 5: Six AH-64 Apache attack helicopters landed at Camp Bondsteel. The Apaches deployed to Kosovo for about 10 days to exercise the ability to rapidly reinforce KFOR and to help familiarize air crews with the Balkans area.

July 6: Lt. Col. Philip L. Marlowe assumed command of the **Base Support Battalion** from Lt. Col. Rick Russell in a ceremony at Camp Able Sentry.

July 6: Soldiers of the **630th Military Police Company** found three pieces of

unexploded ordnance on a pile of trash near Strpce. Soldiers of the **737th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company** determined that the objects were training mines and disposed of them.

July 7: The **13th Tactical Group** conducted a weapons amnesty program in Kamenica. Five rifles, one machine gun, two antitank rocket launchers, 2,100 rifle rounds, two silencers and some military equipment items were collected.

July 8: Soldiers of the **127th Military Police Company** witnessed an assault on a man. The assailant drove away. The victim was transported to a police station to fill out a report with KPS. Other soldiers of the 127th conducted a traffic stop in Gnjilane, where they halted the vehicle and detained the assailant. He was turned over to

KPS in Gnjilane.

July 8: A patrol from Task Force 1-18 Infantry reported that a Kosovo Protection Corps member brought a man with a gunshot wound to a checkpoint in Klokot. The soldiers called for medical evacuation; the patient was evacuated by helicopter to Camp Bondsteel and later transported to Pristina hospital. According to witnesses, the man had been shot by his brother-in-law with a pistol. The suspect was taken to the KPS substation in Vitina.

July 9: A boy handed over 8 rounds of ammunition to a patrol from **MNB(N)**; he found the rounds in a grassy area south of Mitrovica.

July 10: In Gojbuje/Gojbulja a patrol from **MNB(N)** inspected a truck and discovered around a ton of wood that had been transported illegally. The driver's ID card was incomplete. UNMIK-Police were called and dealt with the case. The truck was confiscated and the driver was detained.

July 11: In a search operation conducted by **MNB(N)** soldiers in Mitrovica, one shotgun, one handgun, one hand grenade, one rifle magazine, about 600 rounds of ammunition and various other items were found. In a different operation, in Prvi Tunel, **MNB(N)** soldiers found four rifles, two handguns, six bayonets, nine grenades and about 200 rounds of ammunition.

July 12: **MNB(S)** and UNMIK-Police conducted a search near Jahvci. Two grenades, one detonator, one pistol with magazine, some gunpowder, four rounds of ammunition and some documents were found. All the items were handed over to UNMIK-Police for further investigation.

U.S. Military Academy cadets converge on Camp Bondsteel



Photos by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Adrian Veseth-Nelson, a second class cadet at the U.S. Military Academy, waits for a Finnish soldier to cut loose his sleeve insignia to exchange for an American flag during a recent visit to KFOR headquarters.

By Spc. Patrick Rodriguez
Staff writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL— Three of tomorrow's leaders, cadets from West Point—the U.S. Military Academy—converged on Camp Bondsteel to research base camp design while learning about the people, cultures and history of Kosovo.

"I think it helps put the pieces of the puzzle together," said Christina Rendon, a junior and an international relations major. "I walked around town (Urosevac) and got a feel for what went on here. It's great that the U.S. forces are here to provide a presence to help stabilize the country."

The cadets not only did research but also got a taste of Multi-National Brigade (East) life by riding with patrols, observing medical civilian assistance programs and visiting the Polish-Ukrainian and Greek camps.

The academic development project the cadets are taking part in lasts for 19 days and is sponsored by the Olmstead Fund, which provides opportunities for West Point cadets to visit non-English speaking countries.

One day the cadets and their instructor were found huddled around a table at the Moral, Welfare and Recreation building on Camp Bondsteel analyzing Camp Able Sentry after visiting there. The three cadets pored over topographical maps to evaluate the camp's proximity to transportation infrastructures, airports, roads and railheads, and the camp's ability to tap into existing infrastructures such as power and waste-water facilities. They also discussed location for power lines, avenues of approach for aircraft, and the most important element—the availability of suit-



West Point cadets visited a mosque near Pristina during their off-time from base camp design research. Outside the mosque, women gathered in the shade, where the cadets talked to the local residents in German.

able land. The cadets did similar analyses of Camp Monteith and Camp Bondsteel.

Capt. Frank Synder, assistant professor and research analyst, said, "Bondsteel is probably one of the best laid out camps we've had. Bondsteel is the first time we started learning from our mistakes in the early '90s, and we built a base camp that really works well."

To break up the study sessions, the cadets and their instructor ventured out of Camp Bondsteel escorted, by Big Red One soldiers, to soak up the local cultures, see historic sites and exchange

See **WEST POINT STUDENTS** page 13

Get to know MNB(E) units

Older than the First Infantry Division, the 9th Engineer Battalion was constituted 15 May 1917 in the Regular Army as the 2nd Battalion Mounted Engineers. The battalion was organized 21 May 1917 at Camp Newton D. Baker, El Paso Texas, and redesignated the 9th Engineers (Mounted) in July 1917. The 9th spent the first years of its proud history in Texas with service at Camp Stewart, El Paso.

After World War I, the battalion was declared inactive except for A Company, which was then transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas in October 1921 to provide engineer support to the Cavalry School. In March 1923, A Company was designated as a unit of the 2nd Cavalry Division but continued to perform engineer support to the Cavalry School. Their performance established a tradition of excellence as a mounted cavalry unit through continued training. In July 1930, the company designation was changed to Troop A, 9th Engineer Squadron. The company was further reduced in size and deactivated in April 1930, less one platoon. In 1936, this platoon was redesignated as a Troop A. During this period, the unit completed such major construction projects as an earthen dam, a structural steel riding hall, and the Cavalry School Bowl. The platoon leader



during a significant portion of that period was First Lieutenant Samuel D. Sturgis Jr., who was later to become the Chief of Engineers as a Lieutenant General.

During the buildup following the outbreak of World War II, the battalion was activated in July 1942 as the 9th Armored Engineer Battalion at Ft. Riley, Kansas, part of the newly formed 9th Armored Division. In June 1943, the 9th accompanied its division to Camp Polk and in November participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers. Following the Louisiana Maneuvers, the unit spent the first half of 1944 preparing to deploy

overseas.

The battalion crossed the Atlantic to stage in England in August 1944. The battalion then supported the movement of the 9th Armored Division across France to the battlefield where first enemy contact was made by the battalion at the end of October in the Schoenfels-Wilwerdange-Bissen area. The battalion participated in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, with C Company figuring prominently in the holding of Bastogne, for which the company was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

On 7 March 1945, during the subsequent allied offensive to the Rhine River, Combat Com-

See **9TH ENG BN** page 6

Peacekeeper Profile



Name:
Trasanis Evagelos.

Age: 29.

Rank: Staff Sgt.

MOS: Paramedic.

Unit: 501st Battalion Mechanized.

Stationed at: Rigas Fereos.

Your duty position:
Special Forces Platoon.

Your role in MNB (E):
Representing my country and providing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

What city do you call home? Athens, Greece.

What are you good at?
Martial arts and swimming.

What do you like to do when you are off duty?
Read books and play sports.

Favorite Food: Movsaka.

Your favorite TV show:
"Friends"

The last book you read:
"Terrorism in the Modern World."

Why did you join the Army? For the pride of wearing the honored Greek uniform and defending my country and family against all foe.

What do you like most about Kosovo? The people of Kosovo.



Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Erika Ocampo.

Age: 20

Rank: Specialist.

MOS: 75H, promotions clerk

Unit: 510th Postal Service Battalion.

Stationed at: Camp Monteith.

What city and state do you call home? Palmdale, Calif.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Sleep and watch TV.

Your favorite food: Enchiladas.

Your favorite TV show: "Will and Grace."

What is the last book you read? "Carrie" by Stephen King.

Why did you join the Army? To go to college and travel.

What do you like most about Kosovo? Don't know yet.



It's history and he's sticking to it

Maj. William Story is the first historian to serve in Multi-National Brigade (East)

*By Spc. Jasmine Chopra
Staff writer*

He doesn't fly fighter jets, design rockets or perform brain surgery, but Maj. William "Shane" Story is a meticulous detective and his mission is crucial.

"I go into people's offices, grab things off desks, comb through documents and ask a lot of questions," Story said.

It's all for a good cause. As the first historian to serve in KFOR Multi-national Brigade (East), Story must assess and document the United States involvement in Kosovo and promote a moral understanding of the conflict in the Balkans.

Story, an Army Reserve officer from the 75th Training Support Division, based in Houston, Texas, and a former instructor at West Point, came to MNB(E) after Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, commander of MNB(E) during KFOR 3B, requested a historian.

Since his arrival in February, Story has investigated the history of the KFOR mission and organized the information into "tools" aimed at providing an account of peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. Such tools reveal how society has functioned in the Balkans and aid in understanding the Army's role in Kosovo.

Story's office looks like a library, filled with secondary research materials including books, audio tapes and magazines. However, much of his research has involved "primary



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Maj. William Story is the first historian to serve in Multi-National Brigade (East). He has researched and documented the United States' involvement in the Balkans. He also assisted in procuring World War II tanks for the 1st Armored Division and the 1st Infantry Division.

investigations."

For MNB(E) projects, Story conducted more than 75 interviews with commanders, key personnel, servicemembers and local nationals. He went to the field, patrolling with soldiers, to hear and document their stories.

He attended municipal, mayoral and U.S. embassy meetings. All the time, he was taking notes and forming impressions, Story said.

One of his objectives includes making the events that have shaped Kosovo relevant for soldiers conducting peacekeeping operations.

"I want soldiers to know why they are here and what is going on," said Story, who has a doctorate in French history from Rice University.

He is responsible for writing research papers for use in future rotations, teaching Balkan history classes and of-

ficer professional development sessions and participating in the staff decision-making process.

Story wrote "Layers of Complexity: Situational Awareness and Peacekeeping in Kosovo," an article that examines conflicts in Cernica, Kamenica, and Strpce, and how KFOR managed peace in those places, he said.

The article will be used as an instructional aid in classes and presentations.

Story said he documents history with the implicit perspective that human life is of absolute value.

"My job is not to propagate an opinion," he said, "but the truth is not objective. A lot of the atrocities that occurred in the Balkans can be explained by absence of absolute value for human life."

Story is working on another article that seeks to refute the idea that the current Balkans conflict

is based on thousand-year-old tribal, ethnic hatred. He calls the idea "racist."

Story's documentation argues that failures in Yugoslavia's constitution, a devastated economy, manipulation and corruption of politics, and a struggle for power and ideas contributed to the recent events in the Balkans.

Story explained how KFOR is involved in reestablishing a functional constitutional structure.

"We demilitarize the conflict in Kosovo," he said. "We remove weapons from the struggle for final status of Kosovo."

"So instead of fighting with weapons, politicians can fight out the final status of Kosovo in courtrooms and elections. We just have to be there to make sure it is a peaceful struggle."

9TH ENGINEER BN: "First to Cross" and "We Will Assist"

Continued from page 5

mand B of the 9th Armored Division arrived at the town of Remagen. They discovered that the Ludendorf Bridge over the Rhine was still intact though the Germans were preparing to destroy it. A small detachment from B Company cut wires and dismantled explosive charges on the bridge under direct enemy fire. When the smoke of the battle had cleared, the 9th Engineers had been instrumental in the establishment of the first bridgehead across the Rhine River since the Napoleonic Campaigns. It is from this action we received our unofficial motto: "First to Cross!"

After the final sweep into Germany and the Nazi surrender, the 9th Engineers performed occupation duties. Occupation duty was terminated on 3 September 1945, and the unit departed West Germany and was deactivated on 13 October 1945. The 9th Engineer Battalion was reactivated on 21 January 1952 to perform normal project work and training at Fort Lewis, Washington. In the fall of 1956, the 9th Engineers were alerted to make a "Gyroscope" movement to Germany to replace the 35th Engineer Battalion in Kitzingen. On 22 March 1957, the battalion completed its move to Harvey Barracks. With less than a year in its new home at Kitzingen, the 9th Engineers were ordered to move to new quarters at Smith Barracks in Aschaffenburg. There the battalion proudly served in the 7th Engineer Brigade, VII (US) Corps, during the Cold

War.

The 9th Engineer Battalion served with distinction in the Gulf War by leading the 1st Infantry Division through the Desert Breach and assisting in the liberation of Kuwait. The Battalion then returned to Aschaffenburg, Germany, where it inactivated in 1992. The 9th Engineer Battalion was reactivated as part of the 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany, on 5 April 1996.

The 9th Engineer Battalion was called upon and deployed to Bosnia in October 1996. As part of Operation Joint Endeavor, the battalion conducted patrols, mine clearing operations, bunker demolitions, and munition destruction operations in the enforcement of the Dayton Peace Accord.

The 9th Engineer Battalion was pressed into the Balkans as part of Kosovo Force (KFOR) during Operation Joint Guardian II in June 1999. The battalion distinguished itself as the first U.S. battalion to stand up at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

Having now served in each of the Balkan regions, the 9th Engineer Battalion stands ready to successfully complete KFOR 4A. Now designated as Task Force 9th Engineer, are pleased to have elements of Alpha Company, 94th Engineer Battalion and the 737th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company as members of the Gila team.

Today we proudly support the 2nd Dagger Brigade Combat Team by living our motto, found on our battalion crest: *Asistiremos* - "We Will Assist!"

Couples stay close through Coin and Covenant workshop

By Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb
Staff writer

CAMP MONTEITH—Capt. Daniel Middlebrooks, chaplain for Task Force 1-26 Infantry, conducted the first of five Coin and Covenant Marriage Workshops, June 28 and June 29 at the Camp Monteith chapel.

The workshop helps improve communication skills among married couples, whether they are stationed separately or deployed together. Each soldier who attended received a coin and the opportunity to renew marriage vows. Those who did not have their spouses with them signed their vows and mailed them home.

"There's two pieces – the coin and the covenant," Middlebrooks said "The covenant is the sheet that goes back home with the spouse as a visual expression of the soldier's commitment to those vows that he took about love,

honor and cherishing. The coin is what the soldier holds on to as a daily reminder of those vows."

The workshop included instruction aids on different personalities and the traits associated with them, the five love languages, growing together in conflict, and incorporating intimacy in marriage.

Middlebrooks said that in a marriage, it is important to understand the importance of communication, the "love languages," ways to meet "his needs and her needs," and gender differences.

"My favorite part was learning more about each other, learning our differences and similarities, who we are and how we can relate better," said Staff Sgt. Tyrone Clayton, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment. Clayton and his wife are stationed in Kosovo together; they and two other couples attended



Photo by
Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

Capt. Daniel Middlebrooks, chaplain for Task Force 1-26 Infantry, presides as Spc. Penelope Shaughnessy of C Company, 299th Forward Support Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Joshua Shaughnessy of Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, renew their marriage vows during a Coin and Covenant workshop at the Camp Monteith Chapel.

the workshop and renewed their vows.

Soldiers interested in the Coin and Covenant Marriage Workshop can contact the chaplains at the Camp

Monteith Chapel for more information at DSN 781-7110, 781-7571 or 781-7508, or send e-mail to daniel.middlebrooks@monteith2.aur.army.mil

Peacekeeper Profile



Name:
Victor Augoustos

Age: 30

Rank: Staff Sergeant

MOS: Gunner

Unit: 501st Mech. Batt.

Stationed at:
Rigas Fereos

Your duty position:
Special Forces Platoon

What city do you call home? Athens, Greece

What are you good at? Scale modeling

What do you like to do when you are off duty? Sports and scale modeling

Your favorite food:
Shales stew

Your favorite TV show: Don't have one

Last book you read: "Apology" and "Gates of Fire" by Socrates

Why did you join the Army? For the history and the greatness of the Greek Army.

What do you like most about Kosovo? Working with other Special Forces teams.



Open for business

Lt. Col. Robert J. Botters Jr., commander of Task Force 1-18 Infantry, and Col. Albert Johnson, chief of staff of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) cut a ribbon celebrating the opening of a new firing range near Vitina. Botters thanked Brown and Root Services for its 24-hour-a-day effort in building the range, which allows soldiers to maintain weapons proficiency during a deployment.

Photo by Pfc. Kate McIsaac

COMMANDER: Patience will get MNB(E) through marathon

Continued from page 2

months. Progress is slow and often at best a matter of two steps forward and one step back.

Even more time and patience is required to improve infrastructure, education, the economy, and health care.

Our partners in this arena — especially the international community including UNMIK, NGOs, and the emerging police structures — do not have a six-month perspective. We in KFOR will definitely make a difference while we are here, but we should not expect to finish the marathon during our tour. Rather, we should be patient, aim at steady progress, and

do what we can to move things forward during our watch.

Finally, I am often asked about the key strategic question of Kosovo's final status. This is a matter for politicians. But one thing is clear: it will take time and require patience.

We in KFOR are here to keep the situation safe and secure and buy time for the political authorities to settle the future status of Kosovo. No one knows how long this will take. As Mr. Steiner, the top UN official here, says: "First standards, then status." By this he means that Kosovo has to have standards for government, rule of law, and inter-ethnic tolerance before the future status is clear. This

will take strategic patience.

So patience is a key attribute for all of us in MNB(E), from the individual soldier to me as the commander. Combined with the first two FARS (discipline and initiative) patience will serve us well as we run this marathon.

We have to discipline ourselves to do the right thing and show initiative when opportunities arise to move forward. And we must have patience to keep running the long race even when progress is slow, remembering that there is no need to rush to failure. For all of us there will be a baton hand-off to another group of KFOR soldiers as the marathon in Kosovo continues.



Rapid Guardian airbor

Vitina Dro



Photos by
Sgt. Michelle Labriel,
TFF Combat Camera.





orne operation July 11

rop Zone



Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Jerry M. Hunter

Age: 31

Rank: Chief Warrant Officer 2

Specialty MOS:
Engineer maintenance technician

Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion

Stationed at:
Camp Bondsteel

Your duty position:
motor technician

In your own words, what is your role in MNB(E)?

To support and sustain combat engineering missions as well as construction missions.

What city do you call home?

Collinsville, Illinois

What are you good at?

Restoring classic and muscle cars.

What do you like to do when you are off duty?

Read, walk and play sports.

Your favorite food:

Italian

Your favorite TV show:

"Friends"

The last book you read:

"Faith of My Fathers"

Why did you join the Army? To get a job and for the adventure.

What do you like most about Kosovo? The gym is always open at Camp Bonsteel.



America's 226th birthday



Photo by Tony Velkov



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Top left: Laurence Butler, the U.S. ambassador to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Col. Stephen D. Celluci, commander of Camp Able Sentry, listen as Pvt. Terry Hudson of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment, sings the national anthem before Fourth of July festivities at Camp Able Sentry

Top right: MNB(E) Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph L. Beam, KFOR commander Lt. Gen. Marcel Valentin and MNB(E) commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute participate in an American tradition: the wave.

Bottom: Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute administers the oath of enlistment for nine soldiers re-enlisting on the Fourth of July; Washington Wizards Dancers serve as witnesses.

LAWMAKERS: Aided by MNB(E) soldiers

Continued from page 1

2nd Lt. Rachael Amilcar, a platoon leader in the 127th Military Police Company; and Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Vereen, operations sergeant for the 744th Internment and Replacement Detachment.

The leaders from MNB(E) contributed to discussions, drawing on their experiences inside and outside the military.

"The (goal) was to unite the women so that they go into (Parliament) as a strong force, to add a balance and really make a difference," Bradwisch said.

The participants and speakers seemed to embrace a common belief: that the war in the Balkans might not have happened if women had been more involved in government.

"Women are natural nurturers — this was evident in all the talks," Bradwisch said. "They are concerned about life in a different way than men. They are protective of their sons and daughters, more willing to negotiate rather than kill."

During the event, Swanee Hunt, the main speaker, recalled a statement she once heard: "Women think very long and hard before sending their children to kill others' children." Hunt is director of the Women and Pub-



Author and lecturer Swanee Hunt poses with MNB(E) representatives (from left) 2nd Lt. Rachel Amilcar, Maj. Gillian Boice, Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Vereen, Capt. Rebecca Bradwisch, Capt. Nicole Lucas and 2nd Lt. Yesenia Garcia during a conference aimed at preparing Kosovo's women parliamentarians for the next legislative session.

lic Policy Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and is the author of "Bosanke: Obnavljaju Mir" ("Bosnian Women: Not Our War").

Ambassador John K. Menzies, chief of mission for United States Office Pristina and former deputy special adviser to Kosovo's president and secretary of state, also was a featured speaker.

Garcia said a big challenge the women parliamentarians face is one of self-perception.

"I think towards the end of the conference they realized what an asset they are to the Parliament," she said. "These women are in the process of defining their role in government."

Vereen described the vital mentoring role the MNB(E) members played during the conference.

"I feel that (for) them, seeing us there, women leaders in the U.S. military, women who work with and lead men successfully, serves as a good role model," she said. "I work in a male-dominated

environment, and I am successful. Women need to see and hear examples of women who are effective leaders."

The military leaders helped the parliamentarians focus their efforts on identifying group goals. Among those goals were building a democracy in Kosovo, improving freedom of movement and improving the education system.

Garcia, who works at a military police substation that helps find refuge for women who have been physically abused, said women parliamentarians can play a strong part in policy-making.

"Women bring up issues that are of concern to everyone in the community, (but) they bring up issues that normally are not brought up by men," she said. "These women have the power to bring up this issue (domestic violence) in the Parliament and put a law against it into effect."

Garcia said the conference is just the beginning of a stronger role for women in Kosovo's government.

"It's a grass-roots effort," she said. "This women's coalition is history in the making."

Wizards Dancers cast spell on Fourth



Photo by Sgt. Michelle Labriel

Washington Wizards Dancers perform for the soldiers of Multi-National Brigade (East) and local invited guests July 4 on Camp Bondsteel. The cheerleaders are from Washington D.C.

By Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb
Staff writer

CAMP MONTEITH—Fireworks started early for soldiers deployed to Kosovo, as Washington Wizards Dancers performed in the region July 1 – 6.

The dancers traveled to Camp Magrath, Camp Bondsteel and Camp Able Sentry to boost morale and show their appreciation of the troops. They also traveled to the smaller outlying base camps to meet troops, shake hands, pose for photos and perform a short dance routine.

"They (the soldiers) do a lot," dancer Kellie J. Corbett said. "It makes me feel wonderful to come over here and do something for them as well." Corbett has visited

Kosovo three times with the Wizards Dancers and said she was excited to come back.

Although the whole team was not able to attend the tour, those who did came from diverse backgrounds and expressed different aspirations. Some are in pre-medical school; some have their bachelor's degrees.

Tameika M. Gray is a single parent with two children who teaches dance. She has been a Wizards dancer for the past three years.

"It's hard," Gray said of being a single parent, "but there's a balance because I'm enjoying myself, I'm doing what I love, and when they (the children) get older, I'm able to tell them what I did for my country, which I think

they'll understand and appreciate."

Corbett said part of the show was dedicated to female soldiers. "We are over here for them as well, because we know they do a lot," she said.

The show included singing and different styles of dancing. Autographs and pictures with the dancers were available for troops afterward, as well as lunch with those who were unable to attend.

"I want to say thank you to everyone, all the men and women, whether or not it's a hostile area or not," Gray said. "It's really appreciated with you sacrificing not only your time with your family, but yourselves, to save our country and to make everything that we have in America possible."

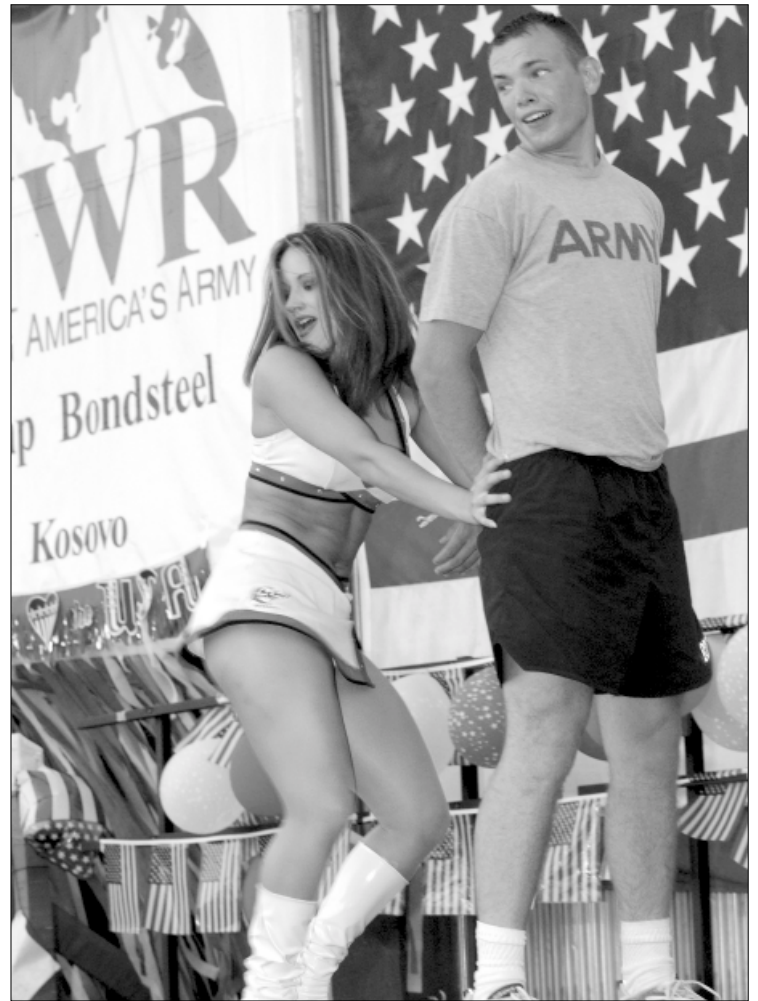


Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

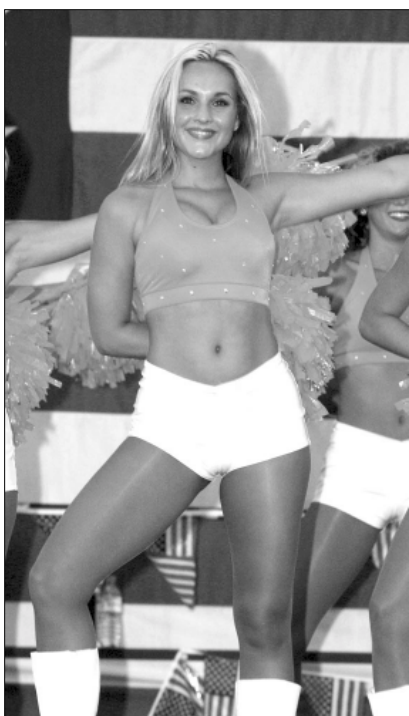
Pvt. Christopher Mase of 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, assists a Washington Wizards Dancer in a routine.



Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Sgt. 1st Class David E. Cooley, a platoon sergeant in Task Force 1-77 Armor, "Steel Tigers," gives Katie DeWald, a Wizards Dancer, a ride on a tank around Camp Monteith.

Washington Redskins Cheerleaders boost morale at Camp Bondsteel



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson



Left: A Washington Redskins Cheerleader executes a dance routine in front of soldiers and other personnel at Camp Bondsteel during a July 10 performance.

Center: Two Redskins Cheerleaders pause from signing autographs before their performance at Camp Bondsteel.

Right: Spc. Tim Waters, a health care specialist, with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1-7 Field Artillery, gives a Redskins Cheerleader a lift during a July 10 performance.

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Melanie Bauguess.

Age: 21.

Rank: Pfc.

MOS: 91W,
Medical Specialist.

Unit: Task Force
Medical Falcon.

Stationed at: Camp
Bondsteel.

Your duty position:
Medic and driver.

In your own words, what is your role in MNB(E)? I drive patients from one location to another but most of all I motivate soldiers.

What city and state do you call home?
Frankfurt, Germany.

What are you good at?
Dancing, writing poems.

What do you like to do when you are off duty?
Go to the gym.

Your favorite food: Pasta

Your favorite show:
What's TV?

The last book you read:
AR 670-1.

Why did you join the Army? It's just something to keep me busy until I decide to commit to one thing.

What do you like most about Kosovo? Fighter Management Pass Program and Morale Welfare and Recreation shows.



MWR multi-national sports day brings competition, fun to MNB(E)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Col. Michael E. Hoffpauir, MNB(E)'s deputy commander of civil-military operations, opens sports day by throwing out the first pitch of the softball competition.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Russian soldiers from the 13th Tactical Group and local nationals competing for Brown and Root Services provide action on the soccer field.

Hosted by the Morale Welfare and Recreation staff throughout Multi-national Brigade (East), **Sports Day** activities offered fun and games for personnel of many nations. The four-day celebration included a

10K run, basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, tug-of-war and more.

The spirit of competition and sportsmanship extended from the athletes on the field to the spectators in the stands.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

On the final day of events, team scores were compiled, and the 709th Military Police Battalion walked away with the Commander's Cup. Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute congratulated the winners and presented trophies.

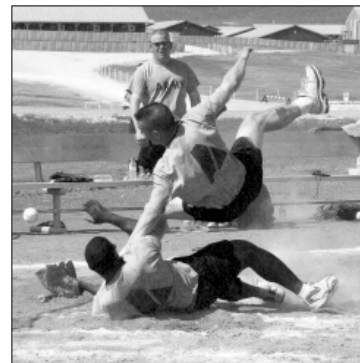


Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Sgt. Michael Childers, a military police specialist with Task Force 709th Military Police, slams into Sgt. Guillermo Brown, an automotive logistics specialist with Task Force 101st Military Intelligence at home plate during the championship game July 7 at Camp Bondsteel.

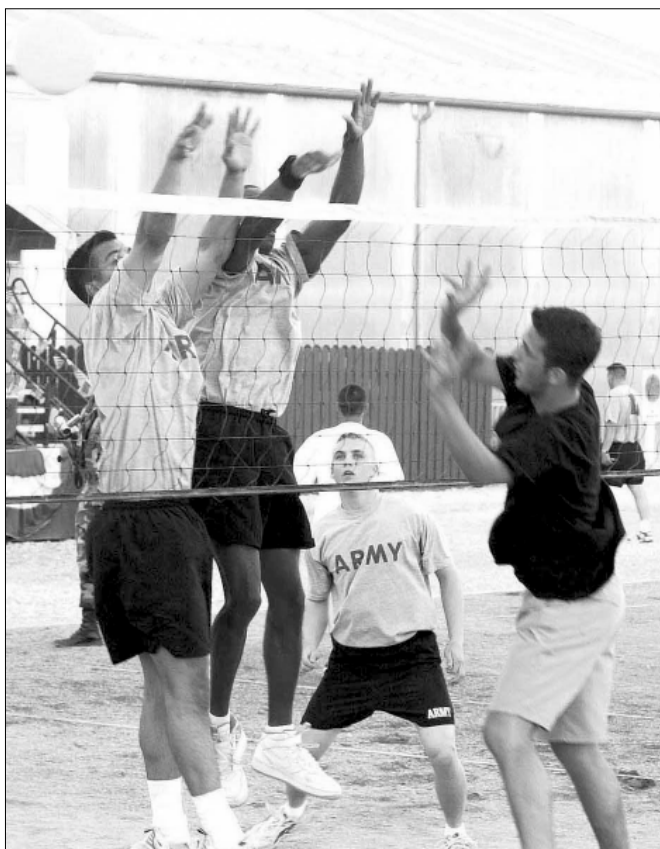


Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Spc. Andrew Gonzales, a communications specialist, Sgt. David Street, a heavy equipment operator, and Sgt. Chris Dean, a carpentry and masonry specialist, all of Co. A, 94th Engineer Combat Battalion, play volleyball against Team Capuccino Bar July 7 at Camp Bondsteel.



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Super-charged spectator 1st Lt. Alison Jones, personnel officer for the 709th Military Police Battalion, cheers for her team during the championship softball game July 7.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Half way through the 10K July 4th Run on Camp Bondsteel, runners had to conquer Radar Hill.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Spc. Sheldon N. Simmons, of Co. A, 94th Engineer Battalion, battles for a rebound against members of the 510th Personnel Services Battalion.

NCO and soldier of the quarter for Task Force Falcon named June 27

By *Spc. Jasmine Chopra*
Staff writer

The Task Force Falcon Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter Board named its first awardees for rotation 4A June 27.

Hours of dedication, studying and effort paid off for Spc. Edwin Gonzales, Soldier of the Quarter, and Staff Sgt. Raymond E. Jones, NCO of the Quarter.

"It is a great honor that out of all the soldiers who competed, I was picked," said Gonzales, a logistics specialist with Task Force Medical Falcon.

Both Gonzales and Jones competed against nine of their peers for the awards. The nine soldiers advanced to the TFF NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board after winning the NCO or soldier of the quarter title at their respective organizations. The soldiers and NCOs compete for the title by answering a series of questions related to overall military operations. These areas include military occupational specialty, regulations, support agencies, chain of command, NCO support channel and world events. The board reviewed the personal appearance, physical fitness test scores, weapons qualification, and personal development activities and achievements of each competitor, said Sgt. Maj. Frank Graham, operations

and training sergeant major for MNB(E).

"When I found out that I had won, I was ecstatic," said Jones, the ammunition section chief for Service Battery 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery.

Gonzalez, who works during the day, spent hours at night studying for the board and the two college classes he is enrolled in.

"It was very challenging and took good time management skills, but I made the commitment to myself that I would be soldier of the quarter," he said.

When asked what the most challenging question the board asked him was, Jones said it was "Why should you be NCO of the Quarter?"

His reply, "I live by the Army values. I go the extra mile to help my soldiers become better soldiers, and my leadership comes to me to accomplish difficult tasks."

NCOs who want to compete should link up with an effective leader, a mentor, preferably someone who has already competed, Jones said.

Gonzalez said that self-assurance is crucial to winning.

"Be confident. Say, 'I am going to be soldier of the Quarter.' If you win be proud and if you don't, be proud that you tried your best, then try again."



Staff Sgt. Raymond E. Jones
MNB(E) NCO of the quarter



Spc. Edwin Gonzales
MNB(E) soldier of the quarter

Photos by Combat Camera

WEST POINT STUDENTS: Future officers explore Kosovo

Continued from page 5

West Point items for other KFOR nations' insignia.

Jimmy Covington, a civil engineering major, talked about the Kosovo mission, "I think that it's a good cause," he said. "I think that Kosovo was better executed than Bosnia was. Everything I've seen here has been great."

Covington participated in a six-month rotation at Comanche Base in Bosnia in 1998 as an enlisted air-traffic controller.

Adrian Veseth-Nelson, a German-Russian language major, said that the past year has been a time of growth and reflection for him and

his peers. "For a lot of them (cadets), it's finally hitting home that they are in the military. Especially, what's gone on the past year with the tragedy of Sept. 11 - they are realizing the fact that they are in the Army and there is a really good chance that a lot of them are getting sent to war."

Asked what his contribution to the Army will be, Covington said, "Hopefully a positive one. I know a lot of people go out there very idealistic, but then again you have to be realistic. Butter bars don't change the world. I want to be tough but fair—honest."

Asked about her contribu-



Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

West Point second class cadet Christina Rendon and Capt. Frank Snyder, assistant professor and research analyst, study a topographical map of Camp Bondsteel during their base camp design class while visiting KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) in Kosovo.

tion, Rendon said, "Definitely contribute good leadership and genuine compassion for what

I'm doing. To give back, especially after everything the Army does for you."

ROUTE LION: TMK and engineer battalion improve roads

Continued from page 1

of the main road, said 1st Lt. James Beaulieu, construction platoon leader for Co. A, 94th Engineer Bn., and officer in charge of the bypass project.

The bypass project includes the expansion of three turns, insertion of guardrails and some road resurfacing.

"This project is positive because it looks forward to the future of Kosovo," Beaulieu said. "From people who live in the surrounding area, to KFOR, everyone will benefit from this project."

This is the first time that many soldiers of Co. A have

worked with TMK members. Both TMK representatives and their U.S. counterparts have been involved in various phases of the road construction project.

They observed and analyzed the road and surrounding areas, compared design plans, and shared equipment. "It's been a great opportunity to further develop knowledge and professionalism," Beaulieu said.

Speaking through an interpreter, Avdush Shabani, a member of the 30th Engineer Group of TMK Headquarters, said that working with U.S. soldiers has been a positive experience.

"We are happy that these improvements are happening," he said.

The TMK used U.S. construction equipment such as rollers, graders and cranes for the project.

"The TMK (engineers) are becoming a capable engineer unit," said 1st Lt. Andrew Olson, executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 9th Eng. Bn. "They just needed a little help, especially with equipment. They have the potential to do a lot of great things for Kosovo."

The Route Lion project is scheduled to be completed July 25.



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Soldiers from 30th Engineer Group, Kosovo Protection Corps and Co. A, 94th Eng. Bn., work together on a culvert improvement project near Strpce, Kosovo.

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Elsa R. Egstad.

Age: 42.

Rank: Staff Sgt.

MOS: 92 Y.

Unit: 304th Psychological Operations Company.

KFOR camp where you are stationed:
Camp Bondsteel.

Your duty position:
supply sergeant.

In your own words, what is your role in MNB(E)?
To order all the supplies.

What city and state do you consider home?
Sacramento, Calif.

What are you good at?
Shopping.

What do you like to do when you're off duty?
Go to the gym.

Favorite food: Pizza.

Your favorite TV shows:
"Friends."

The last book you read:
"About Face."

Why did you join the Army? It's my way to pay back the United States for everything it's given me.

What do you like the best about Kosovo?
The children.



Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Tracy Lamboy.

Age: 27.

Rank: Sgt.

MOS: 37F.

Unit: 304th Psychological Operations Company.

KFOR camp where you are stationed:
Camp Bondsteel.

Your duty position:
Broadcast Team for PSYOPS.

In your own words, what is your role in MNB(E)?
To change the hearts and minds of Kosovars so that they may respect and tolerate one another regardless of ethnicity.

What city do you consider home?
Novato, Calif.

What are you good at?
Singing.

What do you like to do when you're off duty?
Sleep.

Favorite food: Spaghetti.

Your favorite TV shows:
"Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

The last book you read:
"Dust to Dust."

Why did you join the Army? College money.

What do you like the best about Kosovo? The people.



Photo contest winner Theme: Kosovo — Outside the Wire Capt. Leslee Ball, MNB(E) deputy surgeon

Two Kosovar girls peek through the window of a school in Binac, June 9 during a medical civilian assistance program conducted by Task Force 1-18 Infantry.



Honorable Mention: 1st Sgt. Rudy Del Valle, TFMF



Sgt. Christina Campbell, a respiratory specialist with Task Force Medical Falcon, blows bubbles with children from the village of Susice.

Think you can do better?

You may be right!

The Guardian East staff invites every member of MNB(E) to participate in a semimonthly **photo contest**.

The prize is the satisfaction of seeing your work in print — and knowing you're the best! (Winning photos also will be displayed in the MNB(E) tactical operations center.)

Each issue's contest will focus on a different kind of photo.

Theme for the Aug. 1 issue (deadline July 20): **Kosovo at**

night — subject can be inside or outside KFOR camps.

Theme for the Aug. 15 issue (deadline Aug. 10): **MNB(E) at work**.

Themes for future issues: **Off duty** and **Best of Bulgaria**. Digital images in any common file format (*.jpg, *.gif, *.tif, *.bmp, *.psd, etc.) will be considered.

Send image files as e-mail attachments (one per message) to senior editor Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson at guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil.

Camp Able Sentry tests its response

By 2nd Lt. Dmitry White,
Special to Guardian East

CAMP ABLE SENTRY — On June 27, one of the guard towers at Camp Able Sentry reported that a car bomb had "exploded" right behind a bus full of soldiers, in the midst of the camp.

Fortunately, the "bomb" was just a realistic training device, and the busload of "casualties" were volunteers portraying the wounded.

Soldiers and leaders of the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment Security Force, as well as several other parts of the Able Sentry community, responded to a simulated emergency that was weeks in the planning.

The soldiers on duty when the incident occurred were taken by surprise and responded as if it were a real emergency.

"It was so unexpected that everyone thought it was a real-world situation, so everyone reacted with a real-world sense of urgency," said Sgt. Nicholas Borrini of 2nd Platoon, Battery C. "We had to react realistically."

The simulated incident involved a bombed car, a bus full of casualties and a general threat to Camp Able Sentry. The Brown and Root Fire Department, the Able Sentry Aid Station and the Golden Lion Security Force



Photo by
2nd Lt. Dmitry White

Staff Sgt. Michael Stubblefield, sergeant of the guard, 1st Platoon, Battery C, carefully pulls a "victim" from a dangerous area during a recent simulated bomb scenario at Camp Able Sentry.

all quickly went on high alert.

Once the tower guard on duty reported the "bomb" and "casualties," the roving guards were sent to get eyes on the scene. The situation they found was one of true simulated chaos. A battered car was now smoking, one soldier was on the ground injured, and other "casualties" on the bus had realistic-looking artificial wounds. Some appeared to have glass protruding from their limbs.

"My first reaction was to run up to the injured person and request support for security," said Staff Sgt. Michael Stubblefield, sergeant of the guard, 1st Pla-

toon, Battery C. Stubblefield was the first person to respond to the incident.

Since 2nd Platoon was assembled and about to come on duty, it was sent immediately to secure the vicinity of the "explosion." Once the area was secured, the firefighters and medics were able to move onto the scene and perform their jobs.

While the firefighters ensured the destroyed car would be no further threat, the medics began evacuating the wounded soldiers to the aid station in their Humvees. Those in Task Force 1-33 FA who were not needed to man the security perimeter jumped to the aid of the medics, lift-

ing stretchers and using their first aid training to stabilize "victims" until the medics could attend to every "injury."

While the medics and firefighters worked, Battery B's Quick Reaction Force swept the rest of the camp to ensure the perimeter had not been violated, and verify that no further threats to Camp Able Sentry were still within the wire.

"We reacted well - it was a quick response," Stubblefield said. "[The training] was really realistic because nobody knew it was going to happen."

Faith support

Blessed are the peacemakers and 'nation builders' in Kosovo

By Capt. Brian Chepey
Chaplain, Task Force Eagle

What a trip! It's amazing how *far* you can go in just a two-hour plane ride. When you look at the map, Kosovo is not that far from home station; however, it seems like light years away compared to the realities of Ansbach and Nurnberg! Don't get me wrong; we are not suffering from a lack of comfort here, other than the steep hills and thinner air during early morning PT. Camp Bondsteel has excellent facilities! However, it's the "farness" of the people and place of Kosovo. When visiting some of the towns and looking at the surroundings you'd think you were traveling back in time to 60 years ago.

Horse-drawn plows, tractors that looked as if they were in a war 50 years ago — they probably were! Sanitation and general community cleanliness are almost non-existent, but hey, this is one reason why we are here. People in Kosovo have been in conflict with each other for a long, long, time. Communism and terror have been reigning here in one form or another for at least the last 50 years! It's no wonder people have been killing each other! What should we expect? When God has been forgotten in a society, should I expect them to love their neighbors as themselves?

I'm not getting political here; I'm simply stating some obser-

vations that I have made which have been re-confirmed by some local Kosovo clergy.

So, are we going to make a difference here? Are we part of something bigger than ourselves? Well, since this rotation business has been going on, the murdering, plundering, and pillaging have dropped dramatically! When you go outside your camp, look at the children — laughing, playing, and smiling. Do you think it is worth our time? Do you think they want us here?

Most of us are here in Kosovo because our government told us we had to be here. Most soldiers, I am sure, did not join up to be 'nation-builders' but rather 'nation defenders.' Do you know why you are here?

This rotation is teaching me to be grateful for my country and its leaders. I thank God that I am part of a nation that has at its roots the declaration: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

The men who stood behind those words were willing to give their lives so you and I could enjoy the freedoms we have. They, too, were 'nation builders.'

Please keep praying. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)

RAPID GUARDIAN: Airborne soldiers, Apaches deploy into Kosovo

Continued from page 1

Kosovo."

Once on the ground, the soldiers boarded CH-47 Chinook helicopters and were flown to another part of the MNB(E) area, where they are to participate in training and peacekeeping patrols with KFOR units for approximately two weeks.

As the SETAF soldiers redeploy, a second iteration of soldiers from 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, part of the U.S. Army V Corps' 1st Armor Division, will arrive in Kosovo with U.S. Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., to conduct similar operations.

U.S. Air Force transport air-

craft from the 86th Airlift Wing in Germany are supporting the deployments of personnel from Europe.

Overall, Rapid Guardian 02-3 is expected to last approximately four weeks.

In conjunction with Rapid Guardian 02-3, approximately 100 soldiers from the U.S. Army V Corps' 1st Infantry Division

in Germany deployed as a supporting element with six AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and crews.

A German company of about 70 soldiers and one United Kingdom company of about 120 soldiers — both from Multi-National Brigade (South) — also are participating in ground operations.

Worship Schedule

Camp Bondsteel

(S) = South chapel	(N) = North chapel	(B) = both
<u>Sunday</u>		
8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass (S)	7 p.m., Catholic RCIA (N)	
9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass (N)		
<u>Thursday</u>		
9:30 a.m., Liturgical Protestant (S)	7 p.m., RCIA (S)	
11 a.m., Collective Protestant (B)		
<u>Friday</u>		
1 p.m., Latter-Day Saint (S)	12 p.m., Islamic Service (N)	
2 p.m., Gospel Service (N)	7 p.m., Jewish Service (N)	
5 p.m., Unitarian Universal (S)		

Camp Monteith

<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>
9 a.m., Bunker Bible Study		7 p.m., Catholic Mass
		8 p.m., RCIA
10 a.m., Collective Protestant Service		<u>Friday</u>
		12 p.m., Muslim Service in Annex
1 p.m., Latter Day Saint Service		6 p.m., Jewish Service
7 p.m., Catholic Mass		
8 p.m., Praise and Worship Service		<u>Saturday</u>
		7:30 p.m., Gospel Service

Goal !!!!!



Photo by Tony Velkov

A future soccer player reaches for the ball and gets caught in the net during a Fourth of July international picnic hosted by the Macedonian Army and KFOR in Petrovec right outside of Camp Able Sentry.

Peacekeeper Profile



Name: Meflijdis Kostois.

Age: 29.

Rank: 1st Lt.

MOS: Armor (tank).

Unit: 501st Mechanized Battalion.

Stationed at: Rigas Fereos.

Your duty position: Civil Affairs.

What state do you call home? Serres, Northern Greece.

What are you good at? My friends said that I am good at cooking.

What do you like to do when you are off duty? I like to read books and listen to music.

Your favorite food: Musaka - the traditional Greek food. You have to taste it!

Your favorite TV show: I like to watch "Formula 1" and WRC.

What is the last book you read? "House of Spirits."

Why did you join the Army? I like the military life and I want to serve my country as much as I can.

What do you like most about Kosovo? The collaboration with other armies and organizations.



Sports

501st Mech. team rolls over press from Urosevac

By Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson,
Staff writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL—From the opening tip-off, spectators could tell that this was no ordinary basketball game, as Greek soldiers from the 501st Mechanized Battalion, part of KFOR Multi-national Brigade East, challenged a group of journalists from the Urosevac area to a friendly game.

The fact that the Greeks defeated the journalists 43 - 37 was secondary to the overall mission of getting the local population to know the soldiers better.

"We are trying to bring the local population closer to our army," said 1st Lt. Kostois Mefilijidis, operations officer for the 501st Mech. Bn. "We asked the Ferizaj media, especially Radio Fatima, to help organize the game. They supported the idea and responded by showing up today." (Ferizaj, is the Albanian-language name for Urosevac.)

As the bigger, taller and better-conditioned Greeks took the floor, it was obvious the journalists had their work cut out for them. The Greeks controlled the game from the onset, behind the hot shooting of Pistos Margioras, the team captain, and the inside play of Kostxs Naziris, center for the Greek team.

On several occasions it looked as if the Greek team was running lay-up drills as the team of fatigued journalists failed to

get back on defense.

On the offensive end, things didn't get any better for them — although Ebet Maligi, one of the younger team members, shot several long-range three-pointers to keep the game close. With young legs and a deadly jump shot, Maligi kept the game competitive and gave the Urosevac fans something to cheer about.

The outcome of the game was determined early, but the effects of the game will be felt far into the future.

"We want the people to see that we are here to help them," Mefilijidis said. "The people need to know that we are here for more than just a peacekeeping mission."

Greek soldiers and more than 20 Urosevac civilians, most of them teenagers, attended the game.

"We did our best to advertise the game to all the people of Ferizaj," said Driton Ramadani, a Radio Fatima employee. "I'm glad to see this many people showed up (considering) basketball is not that popular in Kosovo."

By the end of the game, the Greek soldiers and the journalists knew the game was a success and the mission accomplished.

"This is a good sign of cooperation between the Greek soldiers and the people of Ferizaj, Ramadani said. "It is because of this type of cooperation that Ferizaj is one of the calmest cities in Kosovo."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Xpistos Margioras (15) scores on one of many lay-ups made by the Greek soldiers.



The Greek military invited the residents of Urosevac to enjoy the basketball game, which was held downtown at the city of Urosevac's sports center.

They all look good at the starting line



Photo by
Pfc. Kate McIsaac

Participants in the Fourth of July weekend 10K race start strong at the beginning of a grueling course that wove its way around Camp Bondsteel and culminated at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation sporting events tournament on July 7.